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electrical voltage value such that an elimination of a charge in said plurality of electrodes is
effected, based on the detection signal of said conveyance failure detection element.

Claims 16 and 17 cancelled herein.

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1-5 and 11-15 are now pending in the application, with Claim 1 being independent. Claims 11, 12, 14 and 15 have been amended and Claims 16 and 17 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1, 3 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,502,545 (Tsuruoka). Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Tsuruoka in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,549,826 (Stoeberl). Claims 4 and 5 were rejected under § 103 as being unpatentable over Tsuruoka in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,555,076 (Yoshiyama). Claims 12-17 were rejected under § 103 as being unpatentable over Tsuruoka in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,309,064 (Tanno et al.). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As is recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention relates to a recording apparatus for rotating an endless belt member and supplying electricity to the belt member so as to attract a recording medium to the surface of the belt member and performing recording on the recording medium by a recording device. The apparatus

includes an electrical feeding member, a conveyance failure detection element and a control portion. The electrical feeding member is capable of feeding selectively a first electrical voltage value for attracting the recording medium or a second electrical voltage value for releasing the attraction of the recording medium to a position of the endless belt member located opposed to the recording device. The conveyance failure detection element detects a conveyance failure of the recording medium. The control portion controls the belt member and the electrical feeding member based on a detection signal of the conveyance failure detection element. The electrical feeding member feeds the second electrical voltage value to the position of the endless belt member located opposed to the recording device.

With the above arrangement, removal of jamming of a recording medium at a position opposed to a recording device can be readily effected by supplying the second electrical voltage value to that position of the endless belt member.

The jam processing device in the image forming apparatus of Tsuruoka can destaticize a charged transfer belt when a paper jam occurs in order to eject the paper. As discussed previously, Tsuruoka uses destaticizing corotrons 37 to destaticize the transfer belt. Contrary to the Examiner's position, corotron 37 is not disposed at a position of the endless belt member located opposed to a recording device. Rather, in Fig. 2 of Tsuruoka, corotron 37 is located at a position of the endless belt member (transfer belt 4) that is further downstream of the positions of the belt member located opposed to the recording device(s). That is, one of ordinary skill in the art would construe those portions of the belt adjacent transfer corotrons 30-33 as being positions located opposed to the recording

device. Even at its downstream position, corotron 37 cannot be construed as being at a position of the endless belt member located opposed to the recording device because it is disposed, relative to the horizontal direction, between corotrons 30 and 31.

Thus, Tsuruoka fails to disclose or suggest at least the feature of an electrical feeding member feeding a second electrical voltage value to a position of an endless belt member located opposed to a recording device, as is recited in independent Claim 1.

Thus, Tsuruoka fails to disclose or suggest an important feature of the present invention recited in the independent claim.

Stoeberl was cited by the Examiner for teaching a sensor for detecting curled paper ends. Yoshiyama was cited by the Examiner for allegedly suggesting that photosensitive and thermal ink jet heads are equivalent structures in the art. Tanno et al. was cited by the Examiner for teaching comb-shaped electrodes in a transporting belt. However, these citations are not believed to remedy the deficiencies of Tsuruoka noted above with respect to independent Claim 1.

Thus, independent Claim 1 is patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claim 1. Dependent Claims 2-5 and 11-15 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in

addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

This Amendment After Final Rejection does not raise new issues, is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicant earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

11. (Twice Amended) A recording apparatus [provided with a conveying mechanism for conveying a recording medium, by using an endless belt member rotating in contact with the recording medium, to a position opposed to a recording device and an attracting device for attracting the recording medium to the endless belt member at the position opposed to the recording medium, said apparatus comprising:

a conveyance failure detection element for detecting conveyance failure of the recording medium which is attracted to the belt member and conveyed; and

a control portion for controlling the attracting device] according to claim 1,
wherein said electrical feeding member feeds the second electrical voltage value to the
endless belt member to reduce or remove an attraction force of the endless belt member at the position opposed to the recording device [according to the detection of the conveyance failure by said conveyance failure detection element].

12. (Twice Amended) The recording apparatus according to claim [11]
1, [wherein said attracting device comprises] further comprising a plurality of electrodes which line up in such a manner as to be along a surface of the endless belt member that contacts the recording medium and [an] said electrical feeding member [for applying] applies a voltage in such a manner that adjacent electrodes of said plurality of electrodes have different potentials.

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14. (Amended) The recording apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said control portion controls said electrical feeding member [in] to feed the second electrical voltage value such [a manner] that the potentials of said plurality of electrodes are equalized, based on [according to] the detection signal of [the conveyance failure by] said conveyance failure detection element.

15. (Twice Amended) The recording apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said control portion [performs] controls said electrical feeding member to feed the second electrical voltage value such that an elimination of a charge in said plurality of electrodes [according to] is effected, based on the detection signal of [the conveyance failure by] said conveyance failure detection element.

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